

Re: Potential guest for Columbia Energy Exchange – Dr. Gonzalo Castro de la Mata

Hi X

I wanted to reach out and offer you a potential guest for Columbia Energy Exchange, Dr. Gonzalo Castro de la Mata, Executive Director of [Earthna](https://www.earthna.qa/) [https://www.earthna.qa/], a non-profit policy research and advocacy center recently launched by Qatar Foundation (QF). Earthna's aim is to inform and influence national and global sustainability policies in order to promote more global sustainability.

As Qatar sits at the heart of global climate challenges, given its harsh environmental conditions, the country is uniquely positioned and motivated to drive policy for a more sustainable future. Dr. Castro de la Mata can speak to the following:

- The critical need for sustainable solutions focused on hot and arid climates
- Policy priorities to address these challenges and drive these sustainable solutions through sustainable cities and sustainable energy
- The role QF's Education City will play as a test bed for innovations in sustainable technology
- How Eartha plans to bridge technical research expertise with policy advice and advocacy, in order to address important gaps in sustainability policy

I've included more about Eartha and Dr. Castro de La Mata's full bio below. Let me know if you're interested in having him as a guest for the podcast, and I'd be happy to coordinate.

Best,
X

Dr. Gonzalo Castro de la Mata's Bio

Gonzalo is an ecologist recognized as a global leader in the promotion of sustainability, with an emphasis on innovative free market solutions to environmental issues. As executive director of Earthna, he guides the center's mandate of enhancing Qatar's role within the global sustainability policy ecosystem. His previous positions include Managing Director for External Affairs at Pluspetrol, Latin America's largest private oil and gas company; Chairman of the World Bank's Inspection Panel in Washington D.C.; Managing Director of Sustainable Forestry Management for the Americas; Head of Biodiversity at the Global Environmental Facility, also in Washington D.C.; Lead Environmental Specialist at the World Bank; and Director of the World Wildlife Fund's Latin American and Caribbean Program.

Gonzalo founded Ecosystem Services LLC, which generates carbon offsets through avoiding deforestation of the Amazon rainforest, and Wetlands for the Americas (now Wetlands International). He has acted as a consultant for multilateral and bilateral agencies, governments, and NGOs, and published over 250 articles in scientific journals, magazines, and books, as well as authoring two books himself. He received a Ph.D. in Ecology and Population Biology from the University of Pennsylvania and holds a Master of Science in Biophysics and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru.

The Earthna Center for a Sustainable Future

Earthna is a non-profit policy center established under Qatar Foundation (QF) to inform and influence national and global sustainability policy. Bridging technical and research expertise with policy advice and advocacy, Earthna will convene a wide community of technical and research experts, government, policy and decision makers, businesses, multilateral institutions, and civil society to generate a more sustainable future. The Earthna center runs multidisciplinary programming with a focus on the fields of hot and arid climates, sustainable cities, and sustainable energy, as well as the potential of QF's Education City as a test-bed for sustainable technologies and practices. Earthna is focused on developing tools, solutions, and policies to improve people's lives within a thriving natural environment. Working together with our community to co-create and design solutions that utilize our resources limits and understand our local culture and needs, we deliver a message of hope and impactful action that will strengthen our legacy.

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